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PRESS RELEASE, FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Number of Vesicular Stomatitis Found In Horses in Arizona Increases to 20

(Phoenix, AZ) -- The Arizona Department of Agriculture has confirmed twenty cases of Vesicular Stomatitis in horses throughout Arizona. This comes nearly a month after the first case was confirmed on April 20, 2005. These premises have all been quarantined. The following is a list of areas where these cases exist:

- Camp Verde – 6 premises
- Wickenburg – 2 premises
- Wittmann – 2 premises
- Sedona - 1 premises
- Dewey – 2 premises
- Cottonwood – 1 premises
- Kirkland – 1 premises
- Cave Creek – 1 premises
- Tolleson – 3 premises
- Avondale – 1 premises

This disease causes blister-like lesions to form in the mouth and on the dental pad, tongue, lips, nostrils, hooves, and teats. These blisters swell and break, leaving raw tissue that is so painful that infected animals generally refuse to eat or drink and show signs of lameness. Severe weight loss usually follows, and in dairy cows, a severe drop in milk production commonly occurs. Affected dairy cattle can appear to be normal and will continue to eat about half of their feed intake.

For more information on this disease, visit www.azda.gov and click on “Hot Topics”. You will also find a map, which is updated weekly, detailing the cases in the U.S.

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